

<1/14/19 Strike Update> UTLA Escalates Charter Focus, Will Protest CCSA Tomorrow

1 message

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Dear Los Angeles Charter Leaders,

We write with today's end of day updates and news coverage on the first day of the UTLA strike in LAUSD schools. As the strike continues into a second day, a reminder that our team will be ready to support you with any questions, concerns, or issues as early as 6:00am tomorrow morning (or earlier, if need be). **We anticipate increased activity at charter school campuses given Mayor Garcetti's call today to halt new school growth and the continued escalation of anti-charter rhetoric from UTLA, including targeting of CCSA.** At this point, UTLA is advertising five days of strike activity (see attached), mentioned four days of activity during their press conference, but we must be prepared for dynamics to shift at any time.

In a mid-afternoon press conference, Mayor Garcetti weighed in on the UTLA strike by positioning himself as a key mediator in the impasse between LAUSD and UTLA and calling for a pause on new school growth in order to reach a settlement, language UTLA has been using as an alternative term for a charter cap. Garcetti indicated that he had spoken to both union leaders and charter school leaders, and that both would be supportive of "investing in existing schools," while halting the addition of all new schools. Garcetti echoed several of UTLA's bargaining positions and indicated that he intended to work with both sides to reach a settlement. Mayor Garcetti's statements are deeply concerning; they come after both UTLA and LAUSD conceded that bargaining on policy and charter issues in particular is illegal, and at a time when attention has been focused on the contours of the actual bargaining proposal. Please be on the lookout for next steps regarding advocacy efforts related to today's announcements so we can continue to ensure charter schools are not inappropriately bargained during this process. [You can read through Garcetti's statements referencing charter schools here.](#)

In a 5pm press conference, UTLA intensified their anti-charter rhetoric and announced plans for a four-day strike. UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl reiterated that protests would occur outside the CCSA office tomorrow at 10:30am.

"Tomorrow, the target has to be the main vehicle of privatization - the California Charter Schools Association. We have to walk with both feet; we have to take on the district, and take on the privatizers." We are actively working on our response, and will continue to focus on the real issues at hand: student safety and learning, and increased funding from the state. Alex continues to claim that this issue won't be solved by Austin Beutner and will require another elected official to get involved to come to an agreement.

Meanwhile, Governor Gavin Newsom weighed in on the strike twice today, issuing a statement this morning and later speaking on the issue when asked by a reporter at an evening event. The Governor's strike statement stayed neutral, urging the UTLA and LAUSD to return to the negotiating table and get kids back in classes; it also pointed to the governor's proposals to increase funding as an avenue to resolve the impasse. Later afternoon, when asked his position on the strike, Newsom noted that he was talking to all the parties involved and hoping to help shape the conversation - but that one side had not engaged with his office at all. The subtext was that the party was UTLA. Newsom also noted that he is focused on moving a charter transparency bill forward quickly. We continue to monitor these city and state-level conversations given UTLA's posture that Austin Beutner will not resolve this issue, and it will take intervention from another elected.

resolvable incidents of blocking deliveries and drop-off procedures reported throughout Los Angeles. We have heard no reports of violent confrontation between picketers and charter school students, families, or staff. In addition, it appears that attendance at charter schools throughout the city remained at fairly normal levels; district schools were at about 30% attendance. We urge you to continue your outreach to families and staff to convey that your schools will remain open; UTLA is now advertising a four-day strike and continuing to increase rhetorical attacks on charters.

As always, please contact our team with any questions, and review consequential news media clips and CCSA-provided resources below:

- LAist/KPCC on 1/14: LAUSD Teachers are officially on strike
- LA Daily News on 1/14: Gov. Newsom hopes LAUSD teachers' strike ends soon, but won't take sides
- LA Times on 1/14: Eric Garcetti says LAUSD strike is 'electrifying' but hopes for swift solution to get students back in class
- LA Times on 1/14: L.A. teachers' strike: How we got here and how we get out
- NY Times on 1/14: What's Really at Stake in the Los Angeles Teachers' Strike
- CNN on 1/14: Los Angeles teachers are on strike, leaving 600,000 students in limbo

Again, with logistical or media issues throughout the strike, please contact your Regional Advocacy Director:

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In addition, please plan to join us tomorrow at 5PM for an evening member call.

We have updated member resources and are sharing new guidance. Our recently **UPDATED Strike Preparedness How-To Guide for Charter School Leaders** includes a complete list of all member resources, including:

- **NEW:** Updated letter to families with new strike date and recommendations on interacting with members of the media
- **NEW:** Sample Statement for Charter Schools to Give to Media During LAUSD Strike
- **NEW:** Charter Educator Update on UTLA's Open Letter to Charter Teachers (Please review this resources with your legal counsel before distributing to your staff, particularly if you have unique school-specific labor considerations.)
- As a reminder, the **LA School Police Watch Command number is (213) 625-6631**. Detailed information on contacting law enforcement is available in our **Picketing Guide**.

In an effort to equip members to focus on serving kids while we tackle the broader narrative, CCSA has created the following **NEW resource page for media on the strike**.